

**ZU**  
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Chaka Khan

Cover by Chuck Melville

Editor

Chuck Melville

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ZU 13 January 1997 (ISSN 1079-1426) Published by MU PRESS, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. "Felicia Rotten In The Stars" ©1997 Chuck Melville & Bill Schmickle; "Robert & Katrina Deadline Damage" ©1997 Kris Kreutzman; "A Whisper Of Wings Shadarii" ©1997 Paul Kidd, Chuck Melville & Adrian Kleinbergen. All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator (excepting purposes of review). This is a work of fiction. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons herein and any persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Butterflies are free, but slugs are a dime a dozen.

First Printing.

MU PUB #338



In just two months!

**Hader & The Colonel** have a discussion over what's fair game for "Breakfast"; by Donna Barr:

**Felicia** takes on an unusual task: babysitting! But the story she tells the little tyke is oddly familiar... "A Bedtime Story" by Chuck Melville and Bill Schmickle

Plus, more Zonie and Robert & Katrina! And the opening game of the New York Pets!

Hey, catch the **Road Rovers** on Saturday mornings, while you still can! 9:30 AM, right after **Superman** on the WB network! You'll have a howling good time!

*Corus is coming... this spring.*



Lost in a strange land, separated from their home across the realities, trapped in bodies not theirs, hunted by everybody for something they didn't even do! And now they've let a woman come between them! Ian and Morgan, wanderers among the Furkindred. Coming soon.

Also On Sale!

**Little Paw II (Adults Only)**- A second collection of pin-ups and furry art by Terrie Smith.

**Fangs of K'aath #1 (Mature Readers)**

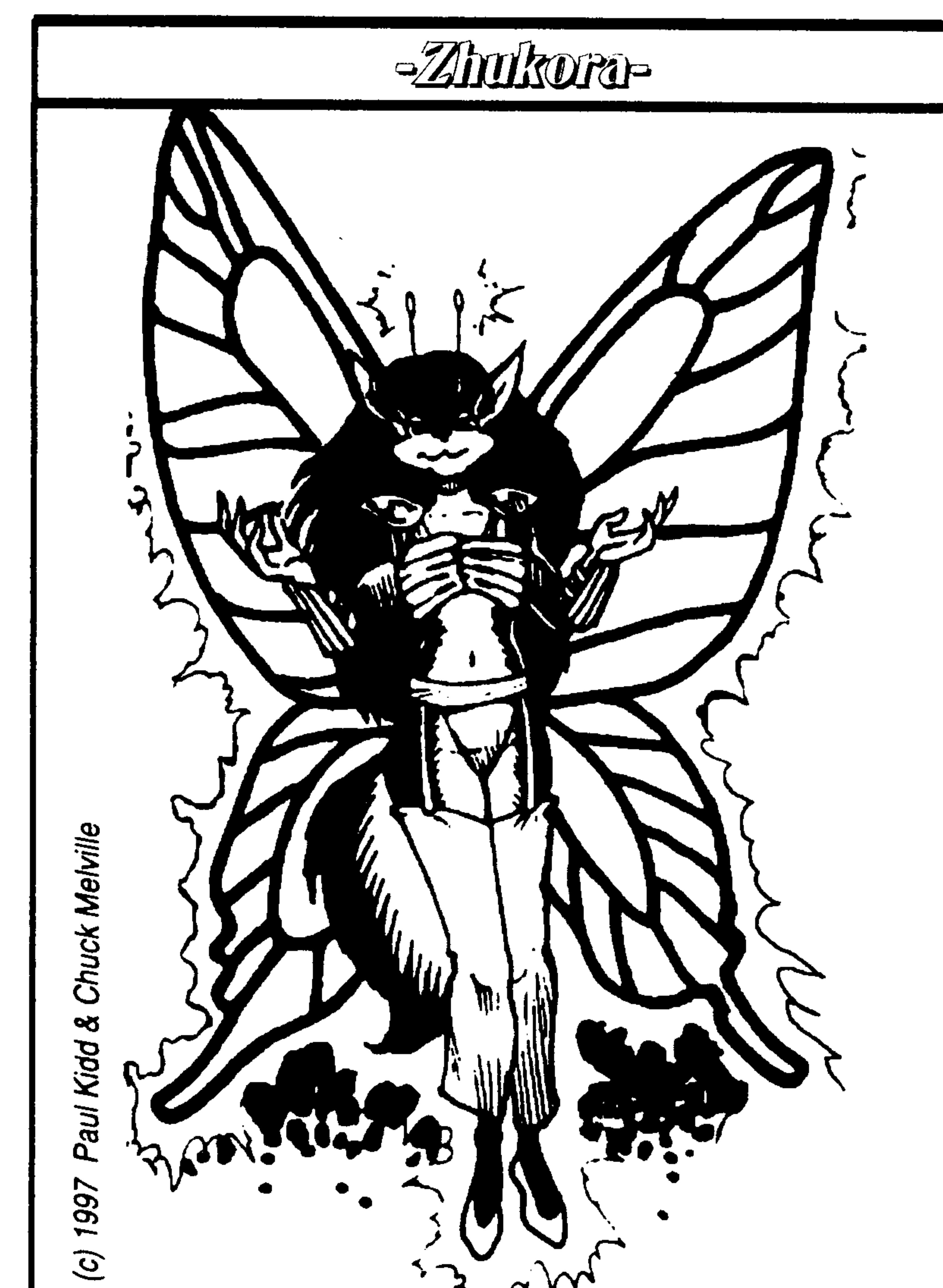
- New series by Paul Kidd and Javier Ruiz! Sandhri the Storyteller makes a new friend -- one who will change her life... forever!

**Stinz: A Stranger To Our Kind** - A brand new graphic novel! Just when Stinz thought his dealings with the new Baroness couldn't get any worse, he finds himself accused of murder! By Donna Barr.

On Sale Next Month:

**The Furkindred: Let Sleeping Gods Lie** - By Dean A Graf and Terrie Smith. A new graphic novel about two dimension-hopping humans who find themselves trapped in a new world, in very furry bodies. Their quest to return home is suddenly jeopardized by a mysterious treasure, and an equally mysterious tigress.

WHAT!? STILL NO ZONIE!?! Unfortunately, we ran out of space this issue... but good news! Zonie will be back next issue! Really!



Can a man reincarnated as a cat defeat the whims of an insane god and rescue his brother from a lunar prison, with only the aid of a sword, claws, a ray gun, and an alien spaceship? Hey, does a cat fly!?

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# Felicia

## ROTTEN IN THE STORES

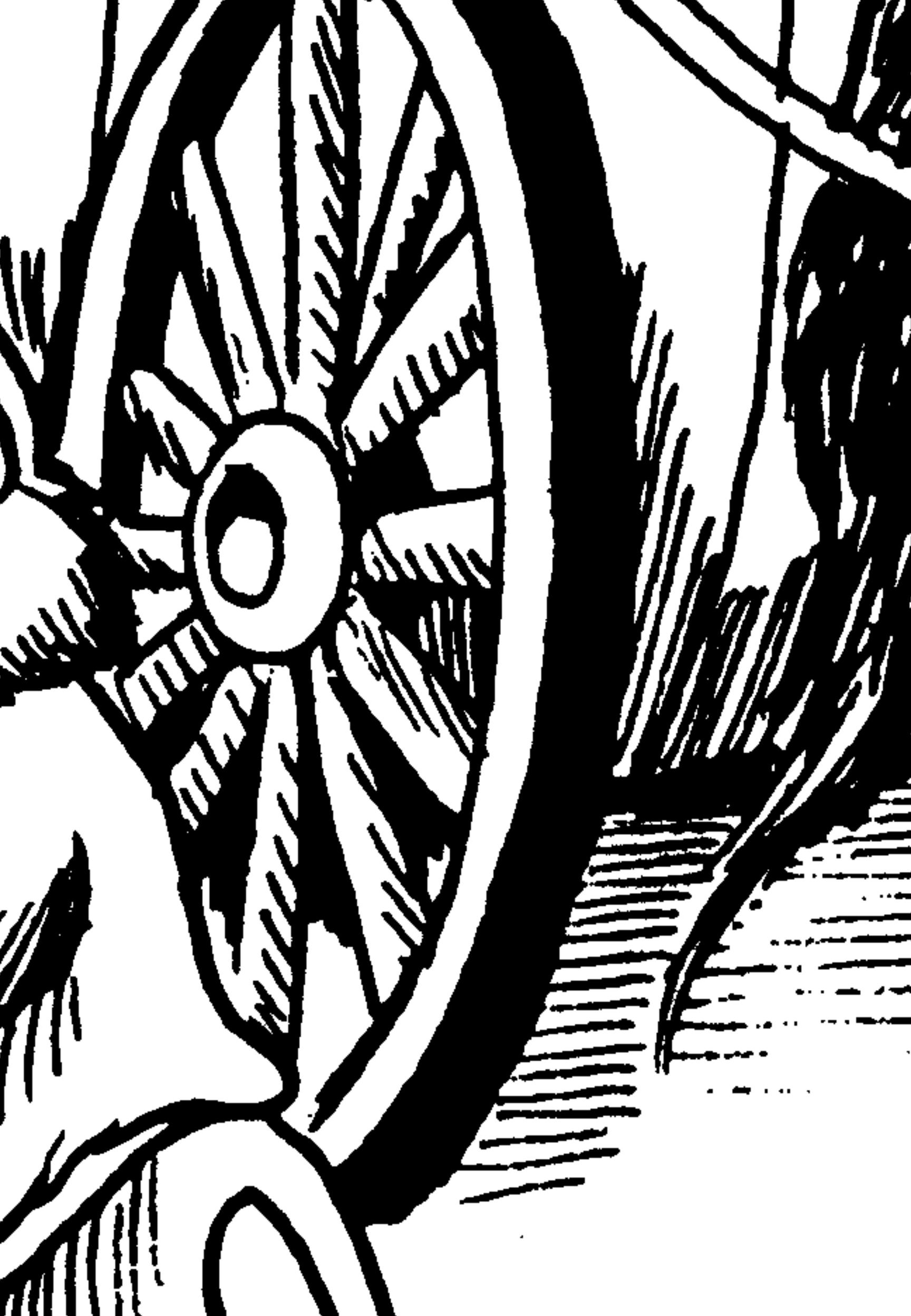
OH, MISTRESS FELICIA!  
HOW GOOD OF YOU TO COME!  
COME IN! COME IN!

YOUR LETTER  
SOUNDED VERY URGENT, SO  
I THOUGHT I HAD BETTER  
COME AT ONCE!

... AND BESIDES, YOUR  
FEE WAS TOO LARGE TO IGNORE.



... AND BESIDES, YOUR  
FEE WAS TOO LARGE TO IGNORE.



STORY BY CHUCK MELVILLE / ART BY BILL SCHMICKLE

THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF SOLDIERS GATHERING AROUND THE LANDS... IS HIS LORDSHIP EXPECTING A SIEGE?

HIS LORDSHIP HAS BEEN BUILDING HIS FORCES FOR SOME WHILE NOW. HE PLANS TO WAR WITH DOGONIA.

NO MILADY... I FEAR THIS IS BUT A PART OF THE PROBLEM THAT I WROTE YOU ABOUT.



ALL BY HIMSELF!? WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE KATARAN THRONE!?... YOU'D BETTER FILL ME IN, STEWARD... AND QUICKLY!

YOU SEE, MILADY, MY MASTER HAS LONG BEEN A STUDENT OF THE ARCANE ARTS. IT WAS ONCE HIS AMBITION TO BECOME A MAGE, BUT THE MAGI PASSED HIM OVER. THEY FELT THAT HIS TRUE AMBITION WAS TO USE THE ARTS TO FURTHER HIS MILITARY MIGHT, RATHER THAN FOR THE BETTER GOOD OF THE FREE LANDS.

HMP. BUT HE CONTINUED TO STUDY...

OH, YES MA'AM! HE WAS ESPECIALLY ENAMORED OF THE STARS. SAID THAT HIS SPECIAL DESTINY WAS WRITTEN IN THE SKIES. HE SPENT SEVERAL NIGHTS UP HERE, STUDYING THE BOOKS, AND RECORDING THE SKIES.

"YOU HAVE A CALLING..."  
... "YOU CAN DO NO WRONG..."  
... "YOUR SWORD IS A MIGHTY PEN OF DESTINY"..."ASK AGAIN LATER"...

HOW INTERESTING...  
THE INK ON THIS OPEN PAGE  
IS STILL FRESH...

ITUTATE in the  
ITEMS  
do with  
if in fo  
course

heav  
Mar

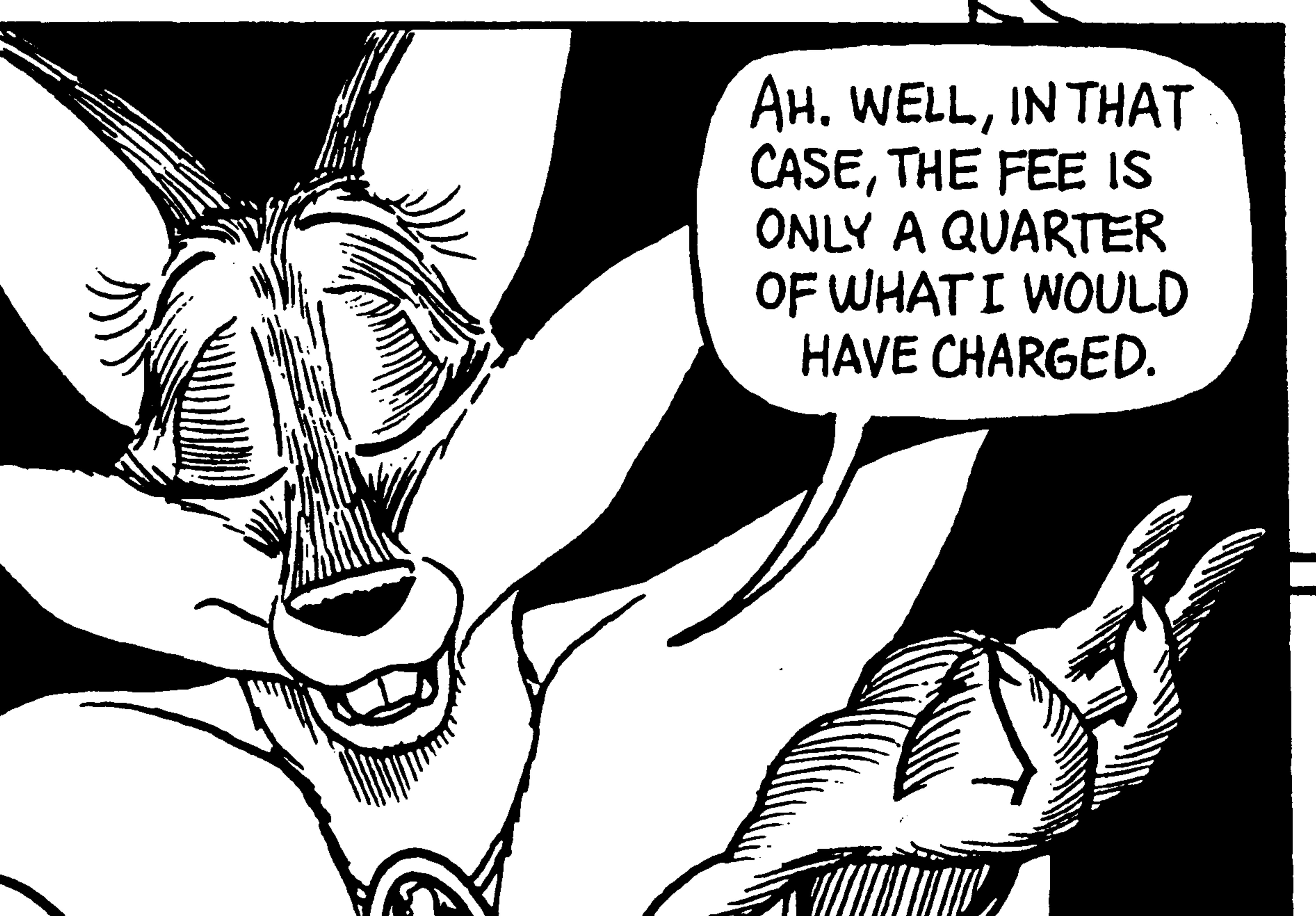
RECENTLY HIS LORDSHIP HAS  
BECOME CONVINCED THAT THE STARS  
PREDICT A GREAT VICTORY AND FAME  
FOR HIM IF HE GOES TO WAR. I AM  
GREATLY CONCERNED, MILADY... WE  
ARE ONLY A SMALL FIEFDOM TO BEGIN  
WITH. OUR RESOURCES HAVE BEEN  
STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMITS AND BEYOND.  
WE CAN'T AFFORD A WAR. EVEN IF WE  
WIN, WE'LL FALL INTO DEBT SO DEEPLY...



JUST A MOMENT! IF YOU'VE NO MONEY IN  
THE COFFERS, HOW WERE YOU PLANNING TO  
PAY ME?



I HAVE A SUM OF MY OWN SET ASIDE. I AM  
THE ONE SEEKING A SERVICE FROM YOU, NOT  
MY MASTER; AND IT WILL BE MYSELF WHO  
SHALL PAY.



AH, WELL, IN THAT  
CASE, THE FEE IS  
ONLY A QUARTER  
OF WHAT I WOULD  
HAVE CHARGED.



MILADY! I ASSURE YOU THAT I  
CAN PAY THE FULL AMOUNT...!



OH, I'M SURE THAT YOU CAN.  
LET'S CALL IT A SPECIAL  
DISCOUNT FOR LOYALTY.

ARE THOSE HIS DAUGHTERS?

OH YES! THEY'VE BEEN MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR FATHER! FOR THAT MATTER, SO HAVE ALL THE LOCAL MERCHANTS. THE CREDIT THEY'VE EXTENDED OUR HOUSE HAS BEEN GENEROUS. BUT I THINK THEY FAIL TO SEE THE ENTIRE PICTURE...

I BELIEVE SO...

GOOD! I THINK I HAVE A REMEDY.

CHILD, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN A COIN?



A PLEASURE, SORCERESS, A PLEASURE!  
I'M ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED THAT YOU'VE  
COME VISITING!

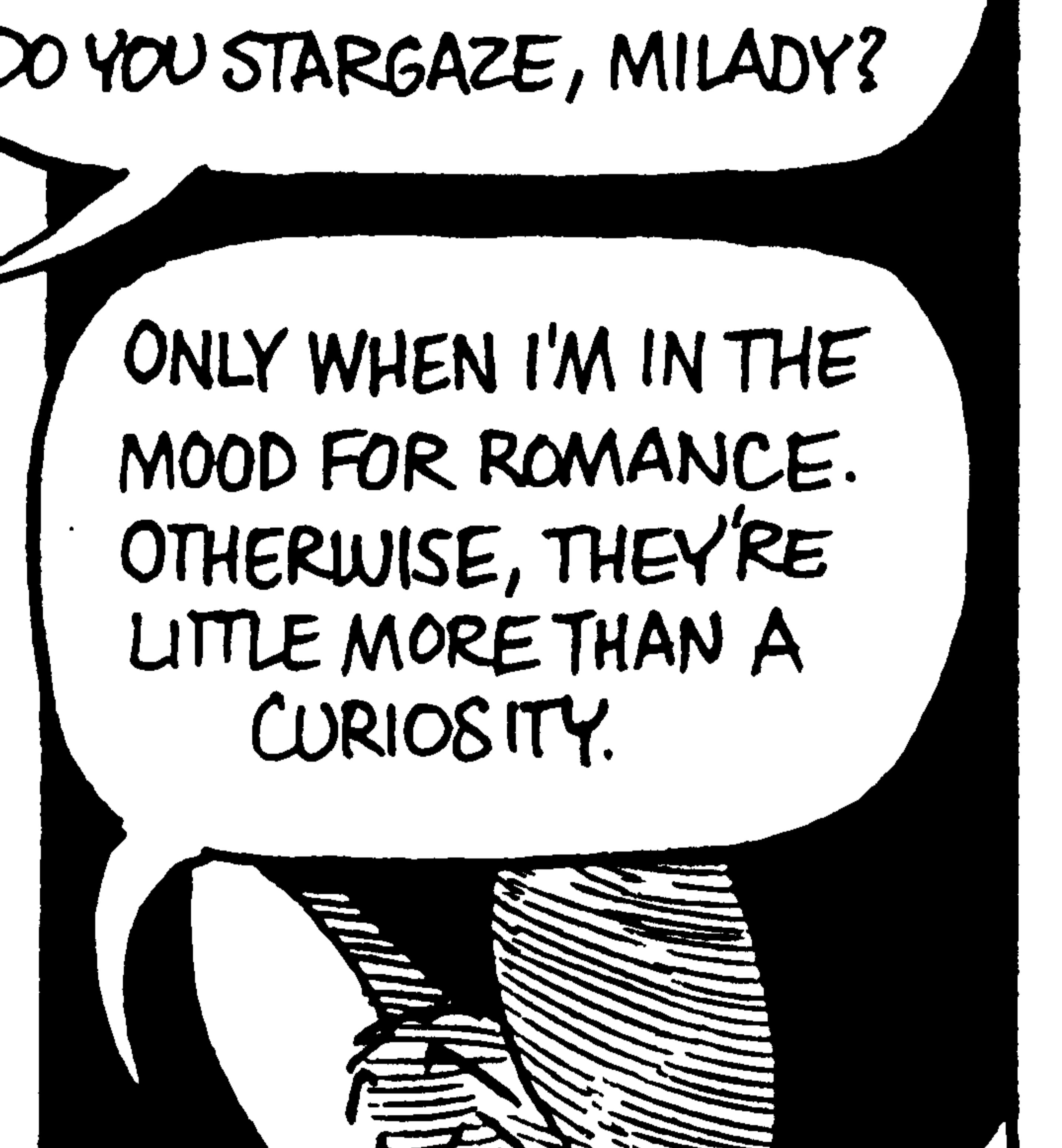
THANK YOU SIR! I COULDN'T JUST  
PASS BY YOUR LANDS WITHOUT PAR-  
TAKING OF YOUR GENEROUS  
HOSPITALITY!



TELL ME, IS THAT AN ASTROLOGER'S LABE  
I SEE FROM THE NEARBY TOWER?



WHY, YES! I SOMETIMES LIKE TO  
KEEP MY HAND IN THE ARTS!  
DO YOU STARGAZE, MILADY?



ONLY WHEN I'M IN THE  
MOOD FOR ROMANCE.  
OTHERWISE, THEY'RE  
LITTLE MORE THAN A  
CURIOSITY.



BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO SEE WRITTEN IN  
THEIR MOVEMENTS! A CLOCKWORK PRECISION  
IN THE HEAVENS, TICKING OFF OUR LIVES,  
HERALDING THE ARRIVALS OF OUR TRIUMPHS....!



AND CALAMITIES? NO, I'M  
SORRY, MILORD. THE STARS  
HOLD NO SECRETS; THEY SIM-  
PLY ARE. I DON'T BELIEVE IN  
ANY DESTINY THAT WE DON'T  
BUILD FOR OURSELVES.

BUT, MY BOOKS...

ANYONE CAN WRITE A BOOK, MILORD. BUT I SPEAK AS A PROFESSIONAL. YOU CAN READ THE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES IN A PALM, IN TEA LEAVES, OR THROUGH THE USE OF A CRYSTAL... BUT IN THE STARS? IT CANNOT BE DONE.

OF COURSE, I AM OPEN TO A DEMONSTRATION...?

FATHER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING...

EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR ACCLAIM WITH STAR GAZING...

NO! NO! THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE MYSELF TO THE MAGI!! A RARE OCCURENCE INDEED!!

COME! WE WILL ALL GO TO THE TOWER WHERE I HAVE MY EQUIPMENT SET UP!

I'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH! I MUST ADMIT...

... YOU'VE CERTAINLY  
ARROUSED MY PROFESSIONAL  
CURIOSITY!

I MUST SAY, YOU ARE BEING  
GENEROUS ABOUT THIS, MILADY...  
YOUR MAGI BRETHREN WOULD  
NEVER GIVE ME EVEN THIS MUCH CONSIDERATION, TO ALLOW ME  
TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT  
I CAN DO...

OH PISH! WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE OPEN TO  
LEARNING NEW THINGS.

SO... WHAT DO YOUR STARS TELL  
YOU TONIGHT?

GREAT GUR!!!

THERE IS A NEW CLUSTER OF  
STARS ON THE SOUTHERN HORIZON!  
I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE!  
THEY MUST HAVE SOME SPECIAL  
IMPORT!!!

I MUST CONSULT MY BOOKS!!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND... THE STARS  
NOW SAY THAT I MUSTN'T GO TO WAR...  
THAT MY DESTINY IS TO BECOME A  
PEACEMAKER AND A...  
A DRESSMAKER!?

THIS IS MOST IRREGULAR  
... BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE  
THAT THE STARS ARE EVER  
WRONG.

WELL, I DON'T  
KNOW THAT I  
WOULD TAKE THIS  
ALL SO SERIOUSLY...

...I've never worked  
with needle and  
thread before...

NO MATTER! THE STARS HAVE  
DECREEED I SHOULD DISBAND THE  
SOLDIERS AT ONCE! THE WAR IS  
OFF! I'LL SEE TO WRITING NEW  
TREATIES... AND GETTING A  
SEAMSTRESS TO TEACH ME  
MY NEW CRAFT!!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!! THERE ARE  
NO STAR CLUSTERS IN THAT REGION!!  
I DIDN'T WRITE ANY OF THAT INTO  
THE BOOKS...!!

(Tell me you didn't  
see that coming.)



I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR DAUGHTERS  
WERE WRITERS, MILORD.

NEITHER  
DID I.

W...WE WERE GETTING SUCH NICE FINERY  
FOR THE FIRST TIME! WE WERE ALWAYS  
SUCH A POOR FIEFDOM!

WE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM! IT  
WOULD HAVE ONLY BEEN A SMALL WAR!

I SEE MY  
ERRORS NOW  
...ALL OF  
THEM!

BUT I THINK IT'S  
TIME TO AMEND  
MATTERS... BE-  
GINNING WITH A  
FEW BOTTOMS!!


IF YOU PLEASE  
MILORD...

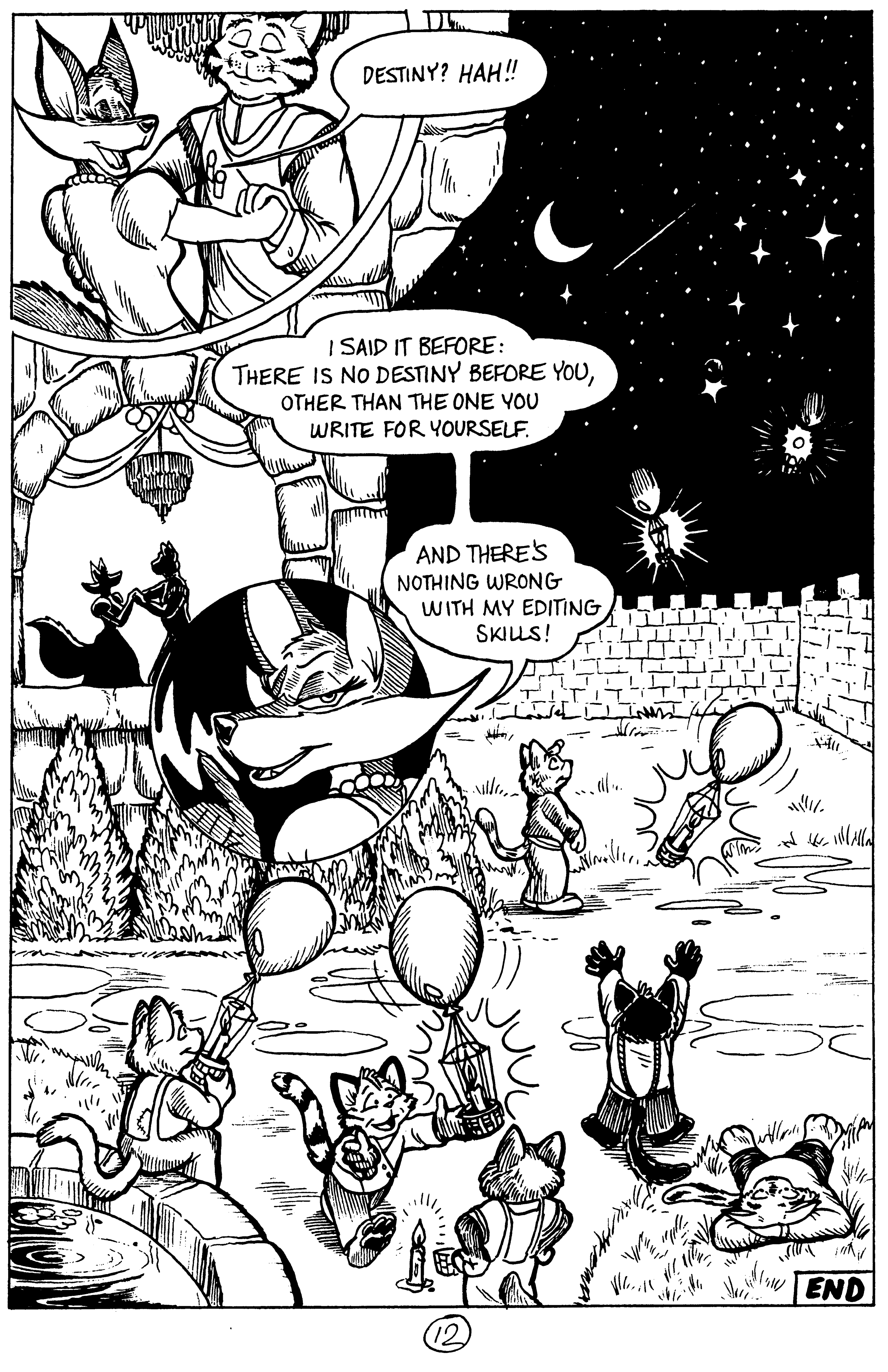
I MAY HAVE  
A SUGGESTION  
OR TWO.



SOME WEEKS LATER...

MY WORD! IF I DIDN'T SEE IT FOR MYSELF...  
THE FIEFDOM AT PEACE AGAIN, THE PEOPLE HAPPY,  
A GALA BALL, NEW GOWNS FOR THE LADIES...





DESTINY? HAH!!

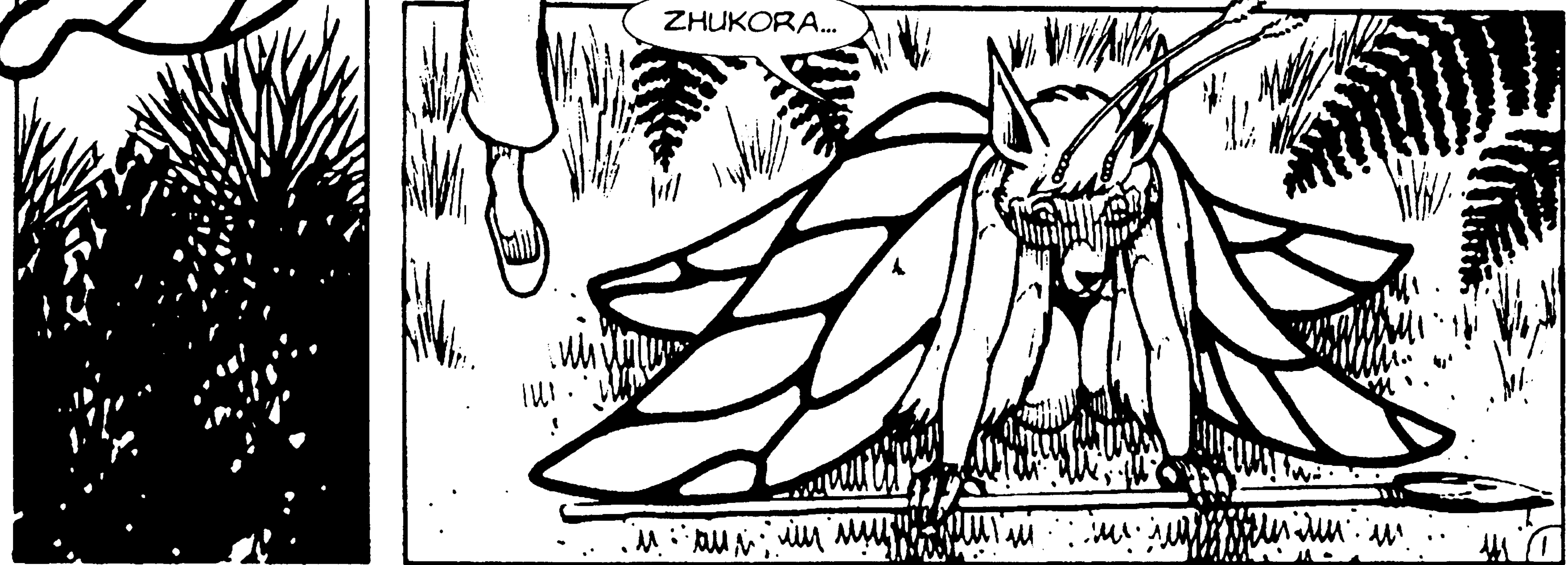
I SAID IT BEFORE:  
THERE IS NO DESTINY BEFORE YOU,  
OTHER THAN THE ONE YOU  
WRITE FOR YOURSELF.


AND THERE'S  
NOTHING WRONG  
WITH MY EDITING  
SKILLS!

END



ZHUKORA...





I  
FEEL  
IT...

DO YOU THINK THAT  
A PEOPLE'S ANGER  
CAN TAKE ACTUAL  
SHAPE, DAIMIRU?

YES,  
I DO.

YES,  
LEADER.

# "Shadow"

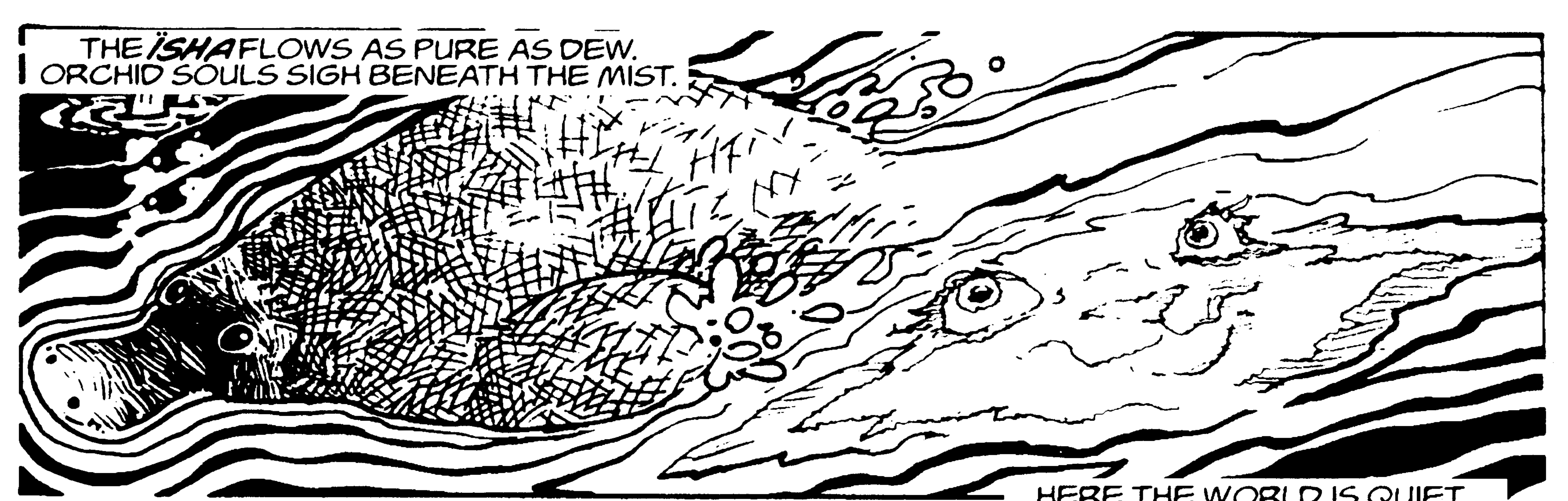
from

## "A Whisper Of Wings"

by Paul Kidd

IN THE DARK PLACES OF THE FOREST,  
BESIDE THE SHINING WATERS, FATHER  
WIND AND MOTHER RAIN SING THEIR  
WORDS OF LOVE.

THE ISHA FLOWS AS PURE AS DEW.  
ORCHID SOULS SIGH BENEATH THE MIST.



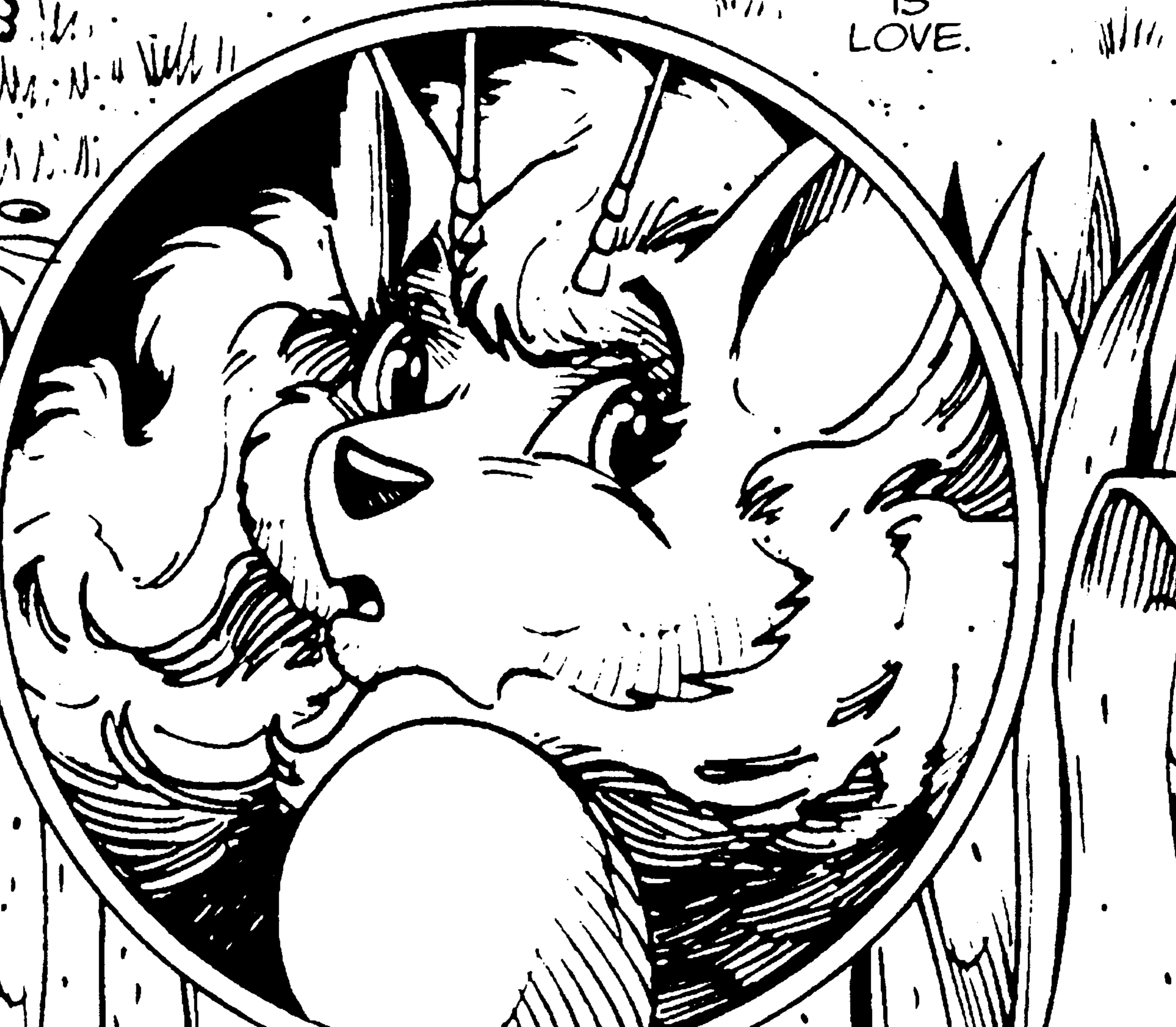
HERE THE WORLD IS QUIET,  
AND SILENCE HOLDS NO PAIN.





LOVE IS NOT MADE OF WORDS.  
IT COMES FROM SIMPLE UNITY.

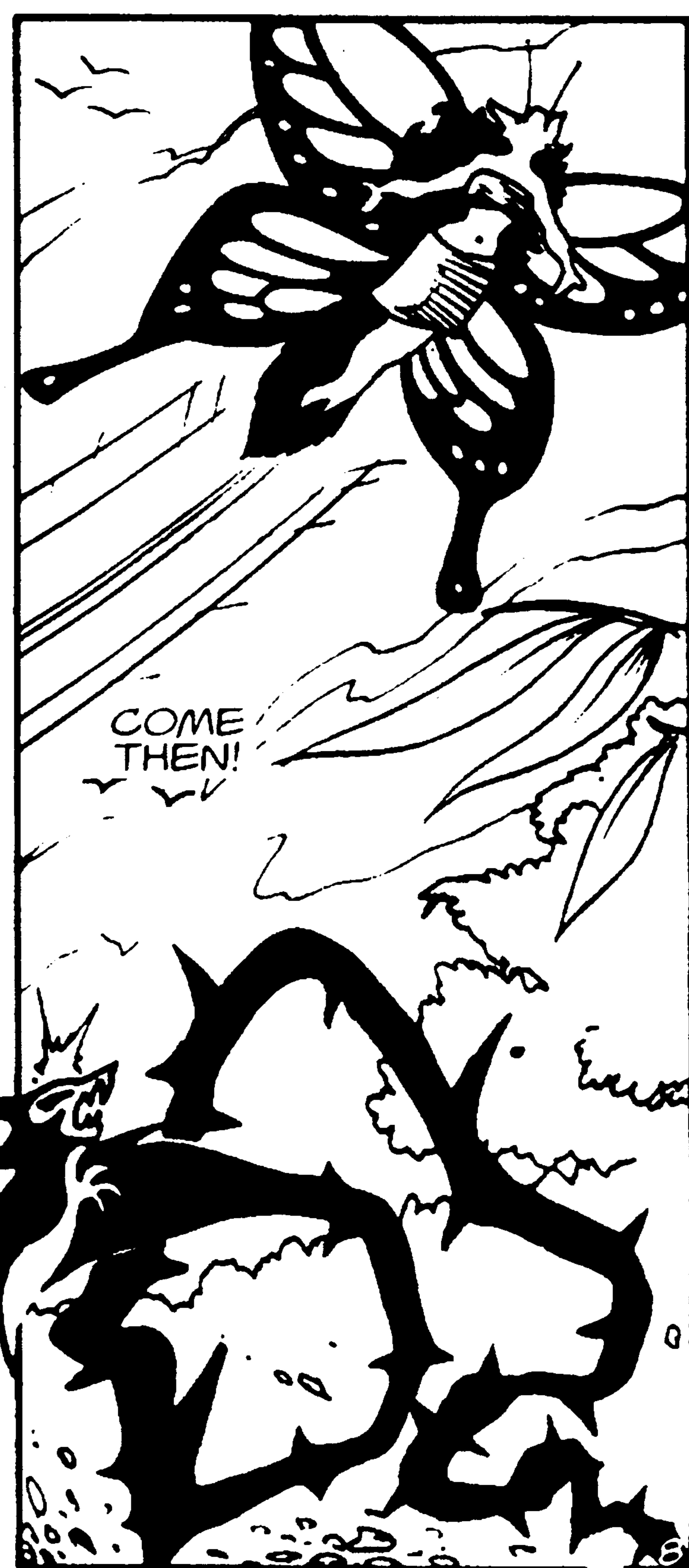
TO UNDERSTAND...


THAT  
IS  
LOVE.











TAKE  
IT.

DOES IT HELP?  
DOES YOUR  
PAIN SEEM ANY  
LESS?

WOULD MY FEAR  
MAKE YOU FEEL  
MORE COMPLETE?

I  
UNDERSTAND.

AND SO,  
I LOVE...



FATHER'S BEEN  
LOOKING FOR  
YOU. NO  
CHORES HAVE  
BEEN DONE!



DANCE  
ON YOUR  
TIME,  
NOT MINE!

OH, GET  
OUT OF  
MY SIGHT!



NOTHING!



SHE DREAMS  
ALL DAY. SHE  
NEVER HELPS  
ME RUN THIS  
FAMILY!

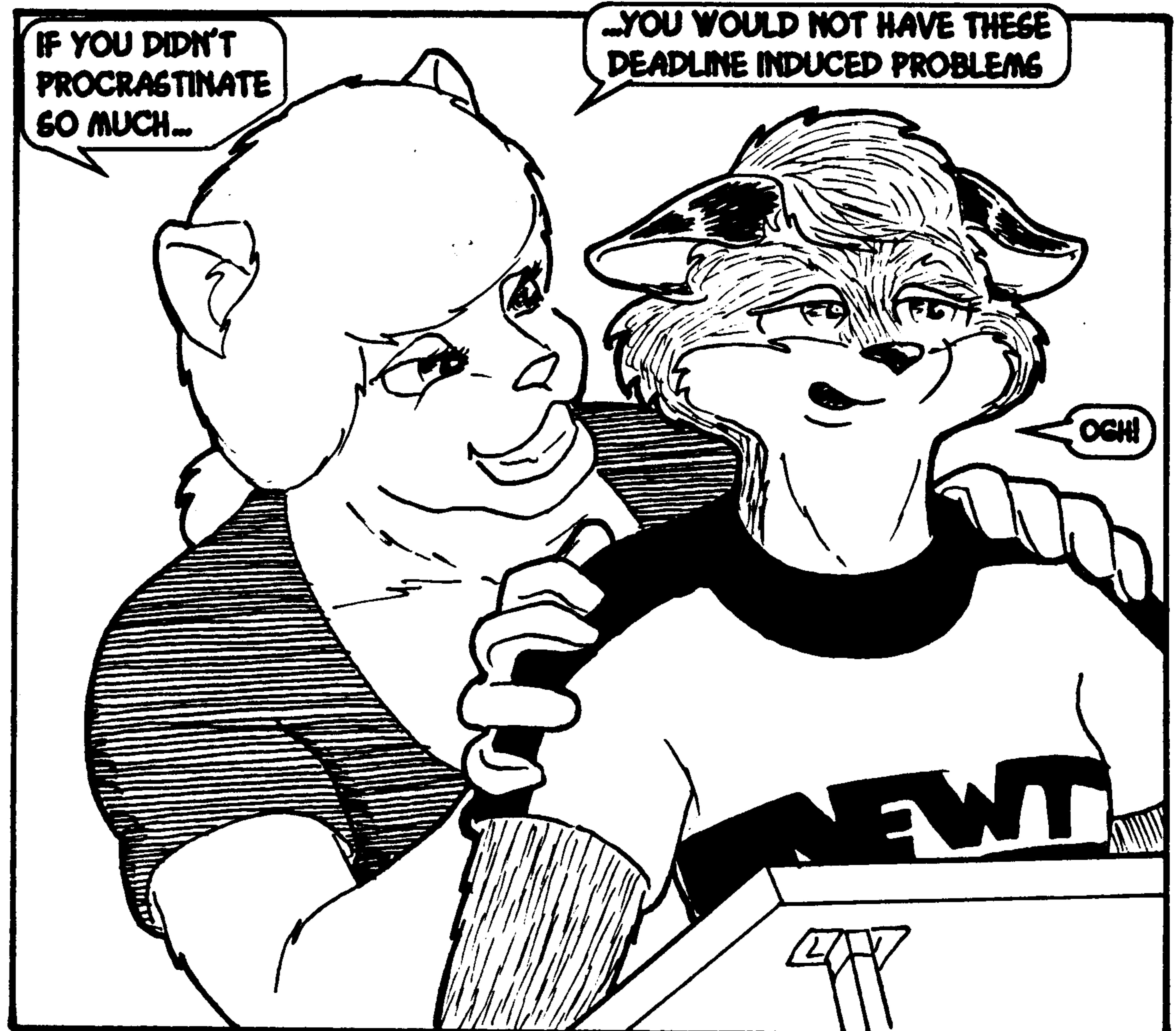
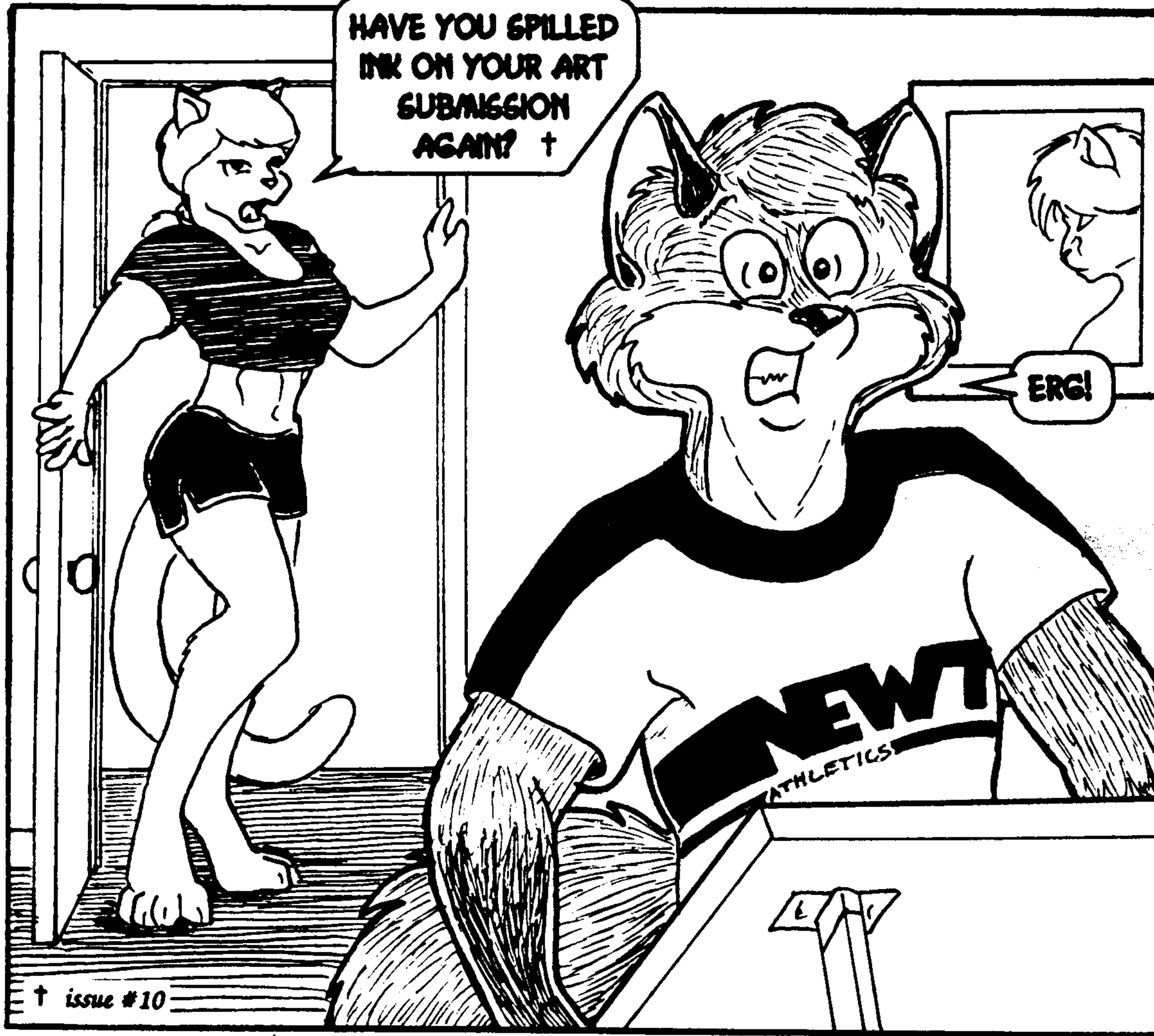
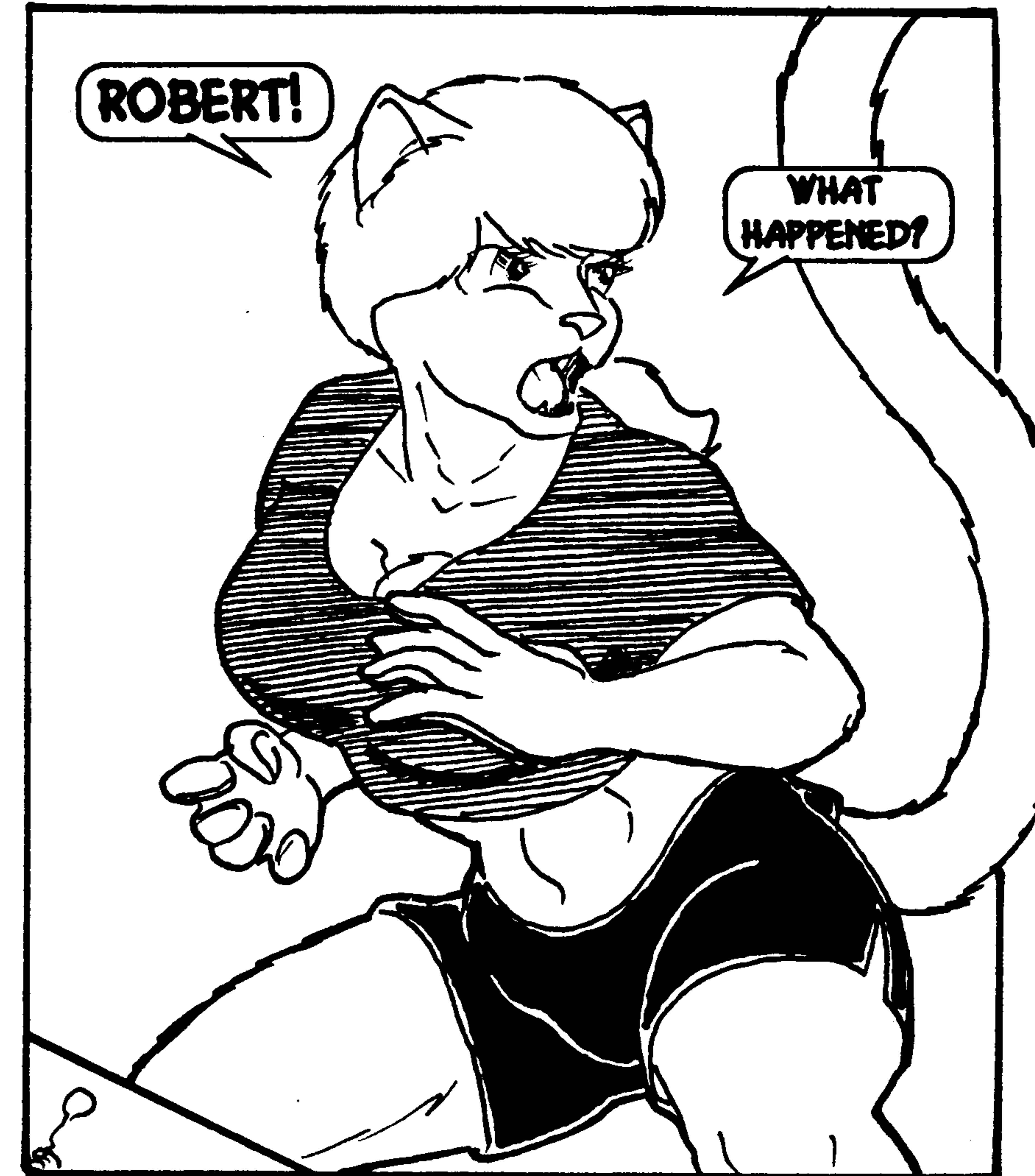
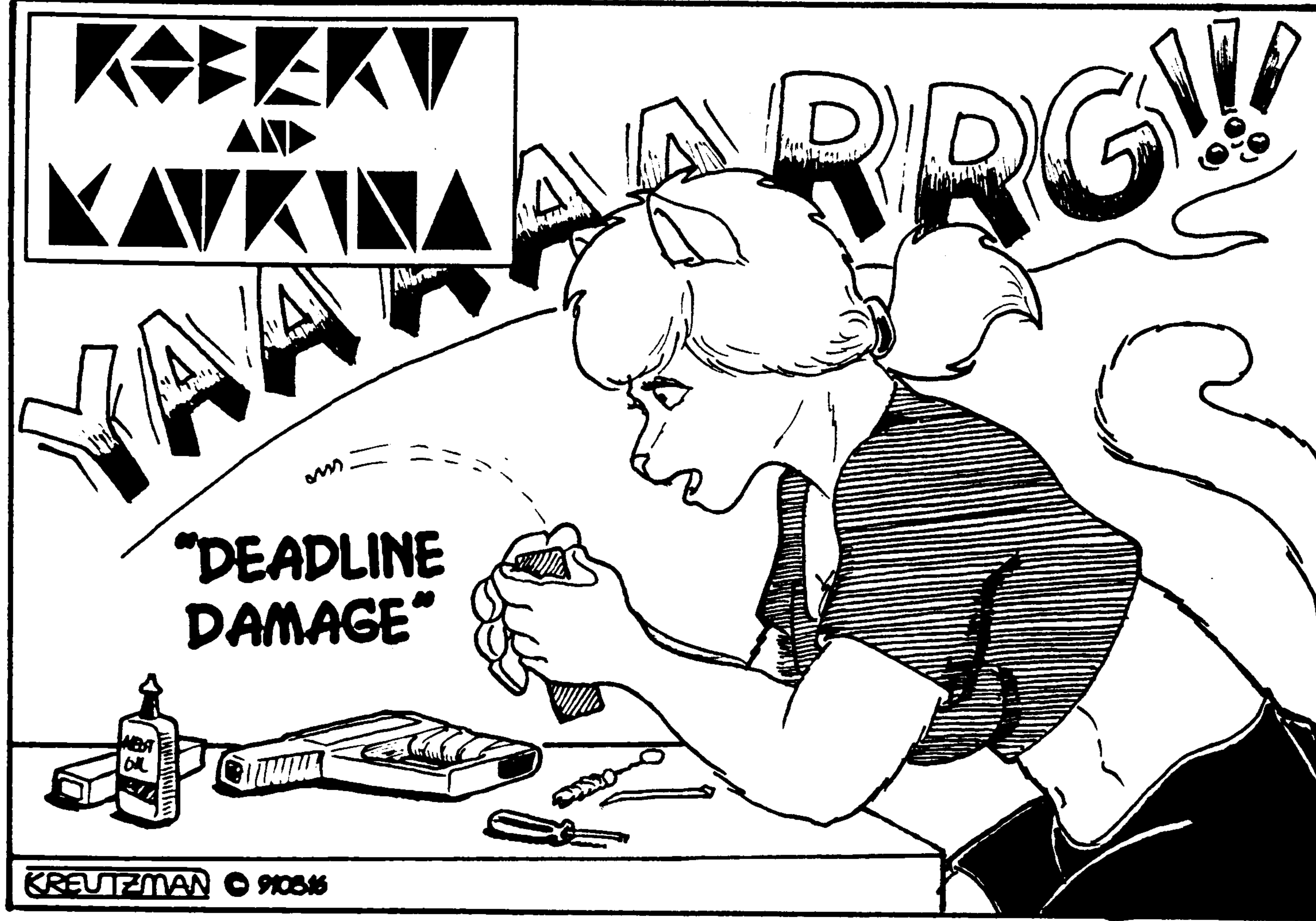
SO MARRY HER OFF  
AND BE RID OF HER.



DON'T  
BE  
ABSURD!



WHO COULD POSSIBLY  
NEED A GIRL  
WITHOUT A VOICE?



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